

§ 4280.104

commonly used ratios. The spreadsheets enable a reviewer to easily scan the data, spot trends, and make comparisons.

State. Any of the 50 states of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Total project costs. The sum of all costs associated with a completed project.

Used equipment. Any equipment that has been used in any previous application and is provided in an “as is” condition.

Very small business. A business with fewer than 15 employees and less than \$1 million in annual receipts.

§ 4280.104 Exception authority.

The Administrator may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, make an exception, on a case-by-case basis, to any requirement or provision of this subpart that is not inconsistent with any authorizing statute or applicable law, if the Administrator determines that application of the requirement or provision would adversely affect the Federal government's interest.

§ 4280.105 Appeals.

Only the grantee, borrower, lender, or holder can appeal an Agency decision made under this subpart. In cases where the Agency has denied or reduced the amount of final loss payment to the lender, the adverse decision may be appealed by the lender only. An adverse decision that only impacts the holder may be appealed by the holder only. A decision by a lender adverse to the interest of the borrower is not a decision by the Agency, whether or not concurred in by the Agency. An adverse decision regarding a grant application may be appealed by the applicant only. Appeals will be handled in accordance with 7 CFR part 11 of this title.

7 CFR Ch. XLII (1–1–13 Edition)

§ 4280.106 Conflict of interest.

(a) No conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest will be allowed. For purposes of this subpart, conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, distribution or payment of grant and guaranteed loan funds or award of project contracts to an individual owner, partner, stockholder, or beneficiary of the applicant or borrower or a close relative of such an individual when such individual will retain any portion of the ownership of the applicant or borrower.

(b) No member of or delegate to Congress shall receive any share or part of this grant or any benefit that may arise there from; but this provision shall not be construed to bar as a contractor under the grant a publicly held corporation whose ownership might include a member of Congress.

§ 4280.107 USDA Departmental Regulations.

All projects funded under this subpart are subject to the provisions of the Departmental regulations (7 CFR subtitle A), as applicable.

§ 4280.108 Laws that contain other compliance requirements.

(a) *Equal employment opportunity.* For all construction contracts and grants in excess of \$10,000, the contractor must comply with Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented by applicable Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR part 60). The applicant or the lender and borrower, as applicable, is responsible for ensuring that the contractor complies with these requirements.

(b) *Equal opportunity and non-discrimination.* The Agency will ensure that equal opportunity and non-discrimination requirements are met in accordance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and 7 CFR part 15d, Nondiscrimination in Programs and Activities Conducted by USDA. The Agency will not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to contract); the fact that all or part of the applicant's